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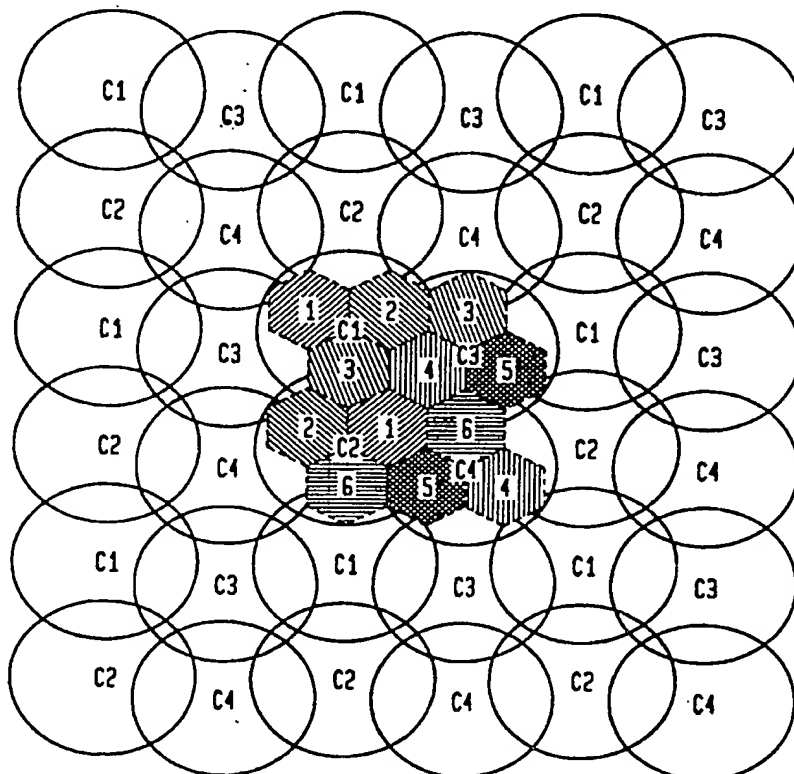
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(54) Title: A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS CELLULAR ARCHITECTURE FOR IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCE ALLOCATION

(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for communications resource allocation in a wireless communications system having a total system bandwidth. A service area is divided into a plurality of sectors. A first set of base station antennas are positioned within a first set of sectors. The first set of antennas have main beams set at a first set of angles, and each antenna corresponds to a sector within the first set of sectors. A second set of base station antennas are positioned within a second set of sectors adjacent to the first set of sectors. The second set of antennas have main beams set at a second set of angles, and each antenna corresponds to a sector within the second set of sectors. Each sector is assigned a portion of the total system bandwidth.



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A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS CELLULAR ARCHITECTURE FOR
IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCE ALLOCATION

5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

 The invention relates to wireless systems. More particularly, the invention relates to a method and apparatus for assigning communications resources for a
10 wireless communications system.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

 The demand for wireless communications services is
15 on the rise. Cellular telephones are becoming as common as office and residential telephones. Personal Communications Service (PCS) offers the potential to improve existing cellular communications dramatically.

 Wireless high-speed broadband packet services hold
20 promise for a whole host of new services for work-at-home, telecommuting, local and Internet access.

 As a result of the increased popularity of wireless communications services, bandwidth demands for wireless systems providing these services have
25 increased accordingly. Bandwidth refers to the difference between the two limiting frequencies of a band expressed in Hertz (Hz). Bandwidth is a key limiting factor in determining the capacity of the system. The term "capacity" loosely refers to the
30 number of users a system can service, or the amount of information a system can transmit to a user at any one time.

 A traditional solution for increasing the

bandwidth efficiency in wireless systems is through frequency reuse. Frequency reuse refers to reusing a common frequency band in different cells within the system. The concept of frequency reuse will be
5 discussed in more detail with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2.

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a typical wireless communication system suitable for practicing the
10 present invention. FIG. 1 shows a base station 20 in wireless communication with terminal stations 22. Base station 20 is connected to a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) 26. MSC 26 can be connected to a fixed network, such as the public switched telephone network (PSTN) 24
15 shown in FIG. 1 or the Internet (not shown). MSC 26 may also be connected to other base stations (not shown). Terminal stations 22 can be either fixed or mobile.

Base station 20 communicates information to/from
20 terminal stations 22 using radio signals transmitted over a range of carrier frequencies. Frequencies represent a finite natural resource, and are in high demand. Moreover, frequencies are heavily regulated by both Federal and State governments. Consequently, each
25 cellular system has access to a very limited number of frequencies. Accordingly, wireless systems attempt to reuse frequencies in as many cells within the system as possible.

To accomplish this, a cellular system uses a
30 frequency reuse pattern. A frequency reuse pattern is determined by taking the total frequency spectrum allotted to the system and dividing it into K sets of frequencies, with each cell having access to one set of

frequencies. For example, if the system were allocated 70 MHz of frequency spectrum, and there were 7 sets of frequencies ($K = 7$), each set would include 10 MHz worth of the 70 MHz available to the system (assuming a uniform distribution). Thus, each cell would have access to 10 MHz worth of the total frequency spectrum allotted to the system.

FIGS. 2(A) through 2(D) illustrate examples of frequency reuse patterns corresponding to $K = 4, 7, 12$ and 19, respectively. A cellular communication system has a number of communication sites located throughout the geographic area served by the system. As shown in FIGS. 2(A) through 2(D), a geographic area can be organized into cells and/or sectors, with each cell typically containing a plurality of communication sites such as a base station and terminal stations. A cell is represented in FIGS. 2(A) through 2(D) as a hexagon.

FIG. 2(A) shows a frequency reuse pattern where $K = 4$. Cells are placed into groups of four (referred to as a "cluster"), with each cluster employing one of the frequency sets 1 through 4 (the number within each cell in FIG. 2(A) represents a set of frequencies). This cluster of four cells is then repeated until the entire service area is covered. This same pattern is shown in FIGS. 2(B), 2(C) and 2(D) for clusters of 7, 12 and 19 cells, respectively.

In view of the above, it can be appreciated that the larger the frequency reuse factor (i.e., K), the smaller amount of frequency is available to each cell. This limits the overall capacity of the system, for example, by limiting the number of terminal stations that can communicate within a cell, or the data rates at which each terminal station can send and receive

information. Consequently, to the extent that the frequency reuse factor (i.e., K) can be lowered, the more capacity the system has to offer wireless communications services.

5 A major factor in designing a frequency reuse pattern is the attempt to maximize system capacity while maintaining an acceptable signal-to-interference ratio (SIR). SIR refers to the ratio of the level of the received desired signal to the level of the
10 received undesired signal. Most of the undesired signal is due to co-channel interference. Co-channel interference is interference due to the common use of the same frequency band by two different cells. Thus, to a large extent, co-channel interference determines
15 how often a set of frequencies may be reused throughout the entire system. Accordingly, to the extent co-channel interference can be minimized, the lower the frequency reuse factor (i.e., K).

 In an attempt to minimize co-channel interference,
20 conventional systems have separated each cell into multiple sectors, with each sector having a directional antenna co-located with a base station at the center of the cell. The beamwidth of each base station antenna
 is normally wide enough to cover the whole sector.

25 Typically, a cell is divided into three sectors with each sector having a 120 degree antenna. These cell configurations, however, are unsatisfactory for a number of reasons, which are described with reference to FIGS. 3, 4, and 5.

30 FIG. 3 is a diagram of a conventional three-sector cell. The cell is represented as a hexagon, with solid lines representing hypothetical cell contours. The term "cell contours" refers to the outline of a cell as

well as the lines within a cell which define a sector.

The cell has a base station located at the center of the cell, with a directional antenna covering each sector of the cell. The beamwidth of each base station antenna is 120 degrees. The analytical cell contours (i.e., coverage area for each antenna transmission beam) is represented by non-solid lines. As shown in FIG. 3, the analytical cell contours for the front lobe of the antenna transmission beam for sector 1 ("originating sector") forms the shape of an oval. The hypothetical cell contours for sector 1, however, forms the shape of a diamond. As a result, it can be appreciated that the analytical cell contours do not match the hypothetical cell contours. Consequently, the analytical cell contours overlap into the sectors 2 and 3 which are adjacent to sector 1, thereby interfering with the antenna transmission beams for sectors 2 and 3. This type of cell configuration is referred to hereinafter as a wide-beam trisector cell (WBTC).

FIG. 4 illustrates a frequency reuse pattern with $K = 4$ using conventional three-sector cells. Cells are placed into a cluster of four, with each cluster employing one of the frequency sets 1 through 4. This cluster of four cells is then repeated until the entire service area is covered. It can be appreciated that if each cell is a WBTC, the analytical cell contours illustrated in FIG. 3 will overlap not only with sectors adjacent to the originating sector within the same cell, but also to sectors adjacent to the originating sector in other cells (hereinafter collectively referred to as "adjacent sectors"). The increased interference caused by overlapping

transmissions increases the frequency reuse factor, thereby decreasing overall cell and system capacity. FIG. 4 also illustrates that the distance (D) between each base station using conventional three-sector cells is 3.5 times the radius (R) of each cell.

FIG. 5 shows the cellular system using the frequency reuse pattern described with reference to FIG. 4 with an additional tier of cells creating co-channel interference for a sector labeled sector 4 located in the middle of the diagram ("FIG. 5 target sector"). FIG. 5 shows the FIG. 5 target sector receiving co-channel interference from four cells, labeled A, B, C and D. This interference, in part, explains why the frequency reuse factor for a conventional system using three sectors is typically $K = 7$.

In light of the foregoing, it can be appreciated that a substantial need exists for a cellular architecture that minimizes the co-channel interference for adjacent sectors and cells, thereby decreasing the frequency reuse factor for a system, thereby increasing the overall capacity of the system.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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These needs and other needs are met by a method and apparatus for communications resource allocation in a wireless communications system having a total system bandwidth. A service area is divided into a plurality sectors. A first set of base station antennas are positioned within a first set of sectors. The first set of antennas have main beams set at a first set of angles, and each antenna corresponds to a sector within

the first set of sectors. A second set of base station antennas are positioned within a second set of sectors adjacent to the first set of sectors. The second set of antennas have main beams set at a second set of angles, and each antenna corresponds to a sector within the second set of sectors. Each sector is assigned a portion of the total system bandwidth. This arrangement decreases the frequency reuse factor to $K = 2$ while maintaining acceptable quality of service (QoS) requirements.

With these and other advantages and features of the invention that will become hereinafter apparent, the nature of the invention may be more clearly understood by reference to the following detailed description of the invention, the appended claims and to the several drawings attached herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a typical wireless communication system suitable for practicing the present invention.

FIGS. 2(A) through 2(D) illustrate examples of frequency reuse patterns corresponding to $K = 4, 7, 12$ and 19, respectively.

FIG. 3 is a diagram of a conventional three-sector cell.

FIG. 4 illustrates a frequency reuse pattern with $K = 4$ using conventional three-sector cells.

FIG. 5 shows the cellular system using the frequency reuse pattern described with reference to FIG. 4 with an additional tier of cells creating co-

channel interference for a sector labeled sector 4 located in the middle of the diagram.

FIG. 6 a three sector cell in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

5 FIG. 7 is a frequency reuse pattern using NBTC in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8(A) illustrates a first type of NBTC configuration referred to as "NBTC Type-I" in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8(B) illustrates a second type of NBTC configuration referred to as "NBTC Type-II" in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a frequency reuse pattern of $K = 2$ using NBTC in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 10 shows the cellular system of FIG. 9 with an additional tier of cells creating co-channel interference for a sector using frequency set 1 located in the middle of the diagram.

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention comprises a cellular architecture and communications resource allocation method and apparatus that significantly reduces a frequency reuse factor for a wireless communications system. The capacity of a conventional cellular system is inversely proportional to the frequency reuse factor (i.e., K) for the system. A frequency reuse factor for

conventional systems is typically $K = 7$. The present invention reduces the frequency reuse factor to $K = 2$, thereby tripling the capacity of many existing cellular systems, while maintaining acceptable quality of service (QoS) requirements.

A frequency reuse factor of $K = 2$ is achieved using the following concepts. An advantageous embodiment of the invention uses a narrow beam trisector cell (NBTC) versus that of a wide beam trisector cell (WBTC) used in conventional systems. A NBTC uses an antenna for each sector having roughly half the beamwidth used in a WBTC. The base station antennas with smaller beamwidths used in a NBTC generate an analytical cell contour that approximates the hypothetical cell contour for each sector. NBTC, therefore, decreases the amount of transmissions from an originating sector that overlap into adjacent sectors. In addition, this embodiment of the invention uses sector rotation to decrease co-channel interference between sectors. Sector rotation minimizes co-channel interference from other cells.

The combination of sector rotation and NBTC yields a frequency reuse factor of $K = 2$. This embodiment of the invention utilizes a cluster of four cells, each having three sectors. The total spectrum available to the system is separated into 6 frequency sets. Each frequency set is used for a single sector, and is reused by a sector in an adjacent cell. As a result, for every cluster of 4 cells, all 6 frequency sets are used twice, thereby creating a frequency reuse factor of $K = 2$.

Referring now in detail to the drawings wherein like parts are designated by like reference numerals

throughout, there is illustrated in FIG. 6 a three sector cell in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 6, a hexagon is used to represent the hypothetical contours of a sector rather than an entire cell as in conventional systems.

The reason a hexagon is used to represent a sector rather than the entire cell is because a base station antenna may be selected that produces a main transmission beam that better conforms to the shape of a hexagon, rather than a diamond used in conventional systems (as shown in FIG. 3).

More particularly, in this embodiment of the invention, three hexagons are used to represent an entire cell. The hypothetical cell contours are represented as solid lines. The cell has a base station located at the center, with a directional antenna covering each sector of the cell. The beamwidth of each base station antenna is approximately 60 degrees, or roughly half of that used by conventional systems. The analytical cell contours are represented by non-solid lines. As shown in FIG. 6, the analytical cell contours for the front lobe of the antenna transmission beam for sector 1 forms the shape of an oval. Since the hypothetical cell contours for sector 1 is in the form of a hexagon, the analytical cell contours roughly approximate the hypothetical cell contours. As a result, it can be appreciated that the analytical cell contours produce less interference for adjacent sectors as compared to conventional systems using WBTC. This type of cell configuration is referred to hereinafter as a narrow-beam trisector cell (NBTC).

FIG. 7 is a frequency reuse pattern using NBTC in

accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 7, the distance (D) between each NBTC base station is $D = 2.6$ radius (R), which is less than the distance found in conventional systems such as the one described with reference to FIG. 4 (i.e., $D = 3.5$ R). The decrease in D is a result of the unique configuration of each NBTC which utilizes a hexagon for each sector, thereby permitting the interlocking hexagon sectors to fit close together to create a "tighter" cell pattern. The tighter cell pattern increases the number of cells needed to cover the service area of the system, which in turn increases the number of times a frequency set may be reused, thereby increasing the overall capacity of the system.

FIGS. 8(A) and 8(B) illustrate two types of NBTC used in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. FIG. 8(A) illustrates a first type of NBTC configuration referred to as "NBTC Type-I". NBTC Type-I is a cell having three sectors labeled sector 1, sector 2 and sector 3, with each sector being serviced by a directional base station antenna having angles on the main beam of 30 degrees, 150 degrees and 270 degrees, respectively. FIG. 8(B) illustrates a second type of NBTC configuration referred to as "NBTC Type-II". NBTC Type-II is a cell having three sectors labeled sector 1, sector 2 and sector 3, with each sector being serviced by a directional base station antenna having angles on the main beam of 90 degrees, 210 degrees and 330 degrees, respectively. The directional base station antennas all have a beamwidth of approximately 60 degrees to 70 degrees, which is approximately half the beamwidth of 100 degrees to 120 degrees used in conventional systems.

It can be appreciated that the antenna angles for NBTC-II are rotated clock-wise approximately 60 degrees from the antenna angles used in NBTC-I. This rotation permits each cell to interlock and ensure complete
5 coverage of the service area while minimizing the distance (D) between NBTC base stations, as discussed in more detail with reference to FIG. 9.

FIG. 9 is a frequency reuse pattern of $K = 2$ using NBTC in accordance with a first embodiment of the
10 present invention. This embodiment of the invention utilizes a cluster of four cells labeled C1, C2, C3 or C4. Each cell has three sectors. The total spectrum available to the system is separated into 6 frequency sets. Each sector is assigned a single frequency set
15 from 1 to 6, with each frequency set being reused a second time by a sector in an adjacent cell. As a result, for every cluster of 4 cells, all 6 frequency sets are used twice, thereby creating a frequency reuse factor of $K = 2$.

20 As shown in FIG. 9, in this embodiment of the invention cell the sectors for cell C1 are assigned frequency sets 1, 2 and 3, the sectors for cell C2 are assigned frequency sets 2, 1 and 6, the sectors for
cell C3 are assigned frequency sets 3, 5 and 4, and the
25 sectors for cell C4 are assigned frequency sets 6, 4 and 5. The resulting pattern ensures that there is at least one sector between sectors utilizing the same frequency set, thereby minimizing co-channel
interference between sectors. This pattern also
30 ensures that each frequency set is used twice for every cluster of 4 cells, and is repeated throughout the service area for the system. Therefore, on the average, this embodiment of the invention makes every

two base stations utilize the whole spectrum, i.e.,
K = 2.

FIG. 10 shows the cellular system of FIG. 9 with
an additional tier of cells creating co-channel
5 interference for a sector using frequency set 1 located
in the middle of the diagram ("FIG. 10 target sector").

FIG. 10 shows the target sector receiving co-channel
interference from three cells, labeled A, B and D. By
way of contrast, conventional systems using three
10 sector cells and wide-beam antennas (i.e., 120 degrees)
receive co-channel interference from at least four
other cells, as shown in FIG. 5. Thus, a cellular
system using NBTC receives less interference from other
cells within the system, thereby helping to achieve a
15 frequency reuse factor of K = 2.

Although various embodiments are specifically
illustrated and described herein, it will be
appreciated that modifications and variations of the
present invention are covered by the above teachings
20 and within the purview of the appended claims without
departing from the spirit and intended scope of the
invention. For example, although specific angles for
the main beam of the base station antennas are given,
it can be appreciated that various angles fall within
25 the scope of the invention. Similarly, although ranges
of beamwidths for use with the base stations antennas
are given, it can be appreciated that any beamwidth
approximating the hypothetical cell contours given for
various embodiments of the present invention also falls
30 within the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for communications resource allocation for a wireless communications system having a total system bandwidth, comprising the steps of:
 - dividing a service area into a plurality of sectors;
 - positioning a first set of base station antennas within a first set of sectors, said first set of antennas having main beams set at a first set of angles, and where each antenna of said first set of antennas corresponds to a sector within said first set of sectors;
 - positioning a second set of base station antennas within a second set of sectors adjacent to said first set of sectors, said second set of antennas having main beams set at a second set of angles, and where each antenna of said second set of antennas corresponds to a sector within said second set of sectors; and
 - assigning each sector in said first and second set of sectors a portion of the total system bandwidth.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said first set of angles are 30 degrees, 150 degrees and 270 degrees, and said second set of angles are 90 degrees, 210 degrees and 330 degrees.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein beamwidths for said first and second set of antennas are within a range of 50 degrees to 70 degrees.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said each angle of said second set of angles is 60 degrees apart from each angle of said first set of angles.
- 5 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second set of sectors each have three sectors, with each sector having a base station antenna.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said system has a
10 frequency reuse factor of $K = 2$.
7. An apparatus for a wireless communications system having a service area divided into a plurality of sectors, comprising:
- 15 a first set of base station antennas within a first set of sectors, said first set of antennas having main beams set at a first set of angles, and where each antenna of said first set of antennas corresponds to a sector within said first set of sectors; and
- 20 a second set of base station antennas within a second set of sectors adjacent to said first set of sectors, said second set of antennas having main beams set at a second set of angles, and where each antenna of said second set of antennas corresponds to a sector
25 within said second set of sectors.
8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said first set of angles are 30 degrees, 150 degrees and 270 degrees, and said second set of angles are 90 degrees, 210
30 degrees and 330 degrees.

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9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein beamwidths for said first and second set of antennas are within a range of 50 degrees to 70 degrees.

5 10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said each angle of said second set of angles is 60 degrees apart from each angle of said first set of angles.

11. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said first and
10 second cell each have three sectors, with each sector having a base station antenna.

12. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said system has a frequency reuse factor of $K = 2$.

15

13. A method for communicating signals over a wireless communications system having a service area divided into a plurality of sectors, comprising the steps of:

communicating signals over a first set of base
20 station antennas within a first set of sectors, said first set of antennas having main beams set at a first set of angles, and where each antenna of said first set of antennas corresponds to a sector within said first set of sectors; and

25 communicating signals over a second set of base station antennas within a second set of sectors adjacent to said first set of sectors, said second set of antennas having main beams set at a second set of angles, and where each antenna of said second set of
30 antennas corresponds to a sector within said second set of sectors.

14. An apparatus for communications resource allocation for a wireless communications system having a service area divided into a plurality of sectors, and also having a total system bandwidth, comprising:

5 a first set of base station antennas within a first set of sectors, said first set of antennas having main beams set at a first set of angles, and where each antenna of said first set of antennas corresponds to a sector within said first set of sectors;

10 a second set of base station antennas within a second set of sectors adjacent to said first set of sectors, said second set of antennas having main beams set at a second set of angles, and where each antenna of said second set of antennas corresponds to a sector
15 within said second set of sectors; and

 means for assigning each sector in said first and second set of sectors a portion of the total system bandwidth.

20 15. An apparatus for a wireless communications system having a service area divided into a plurality of sectors, comprising:

 a switching network to provide switching for a plurality of base stations;

25 a first set of base stations operably coupled to said switching network for receiving signals over said network, said first set of base stations having antennas within a first set of sectors, said antennas having main beams set at a first set of angles, and
30 where each antenna corresponds to a sector within said first set of sectors;

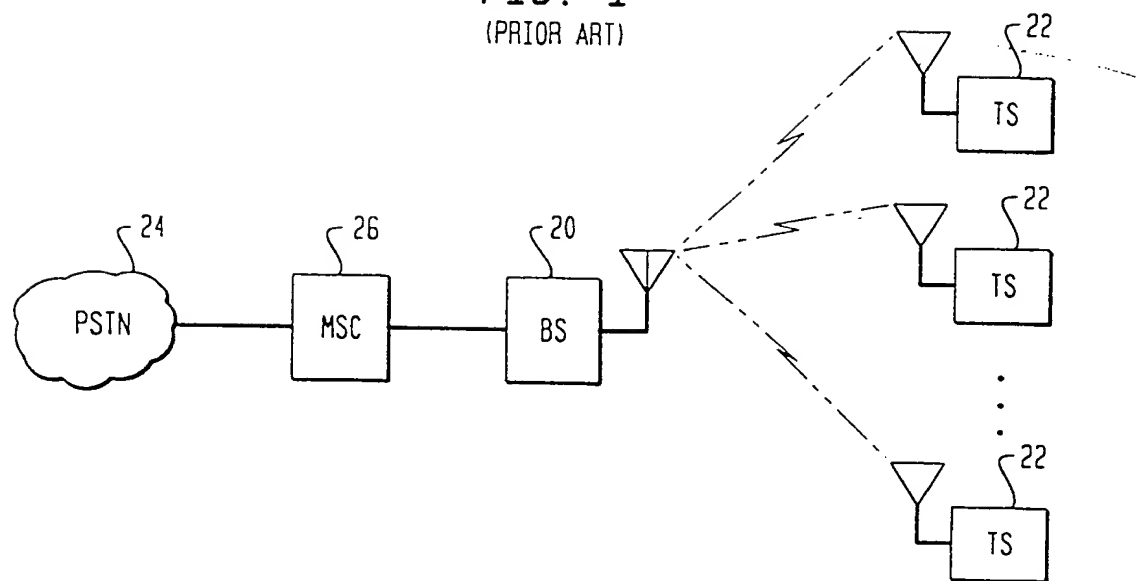
 a second set of base stations operably coupled to said switching network for receiving signals over said

network, said second set of base stations having
antennas within a second set of sectors adjacent to
said first set of sectors, said antennas having main
beams set at a second set of angles, and where each
5 antenna corresponds to a sector within said second set
of sectors; and

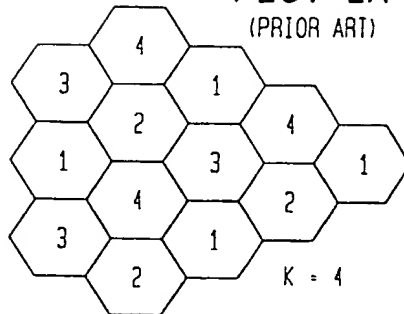
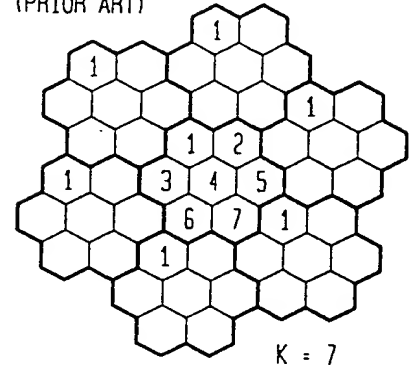
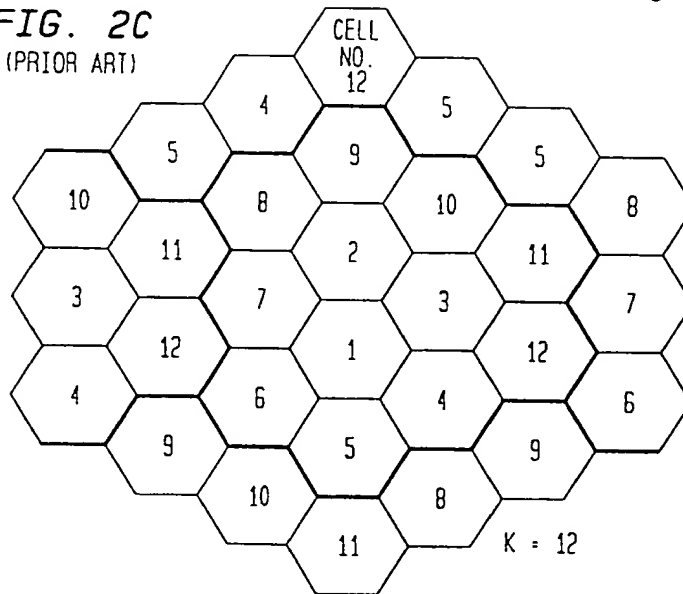
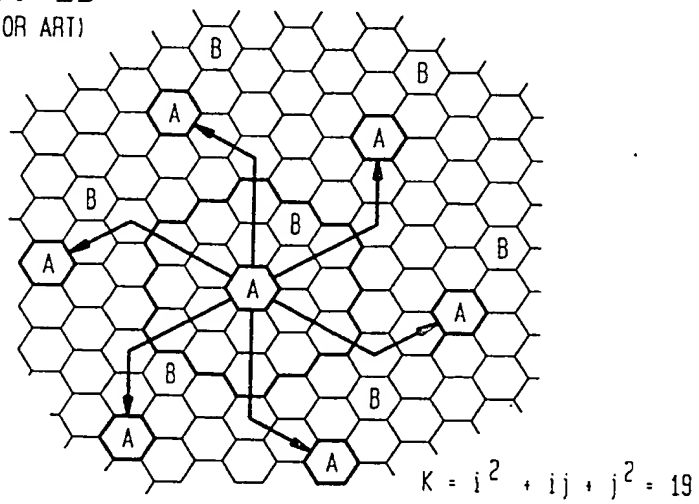
transceivers operably coupled to said antennas for
communicating said signals over said main beams for
said antennas.

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FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

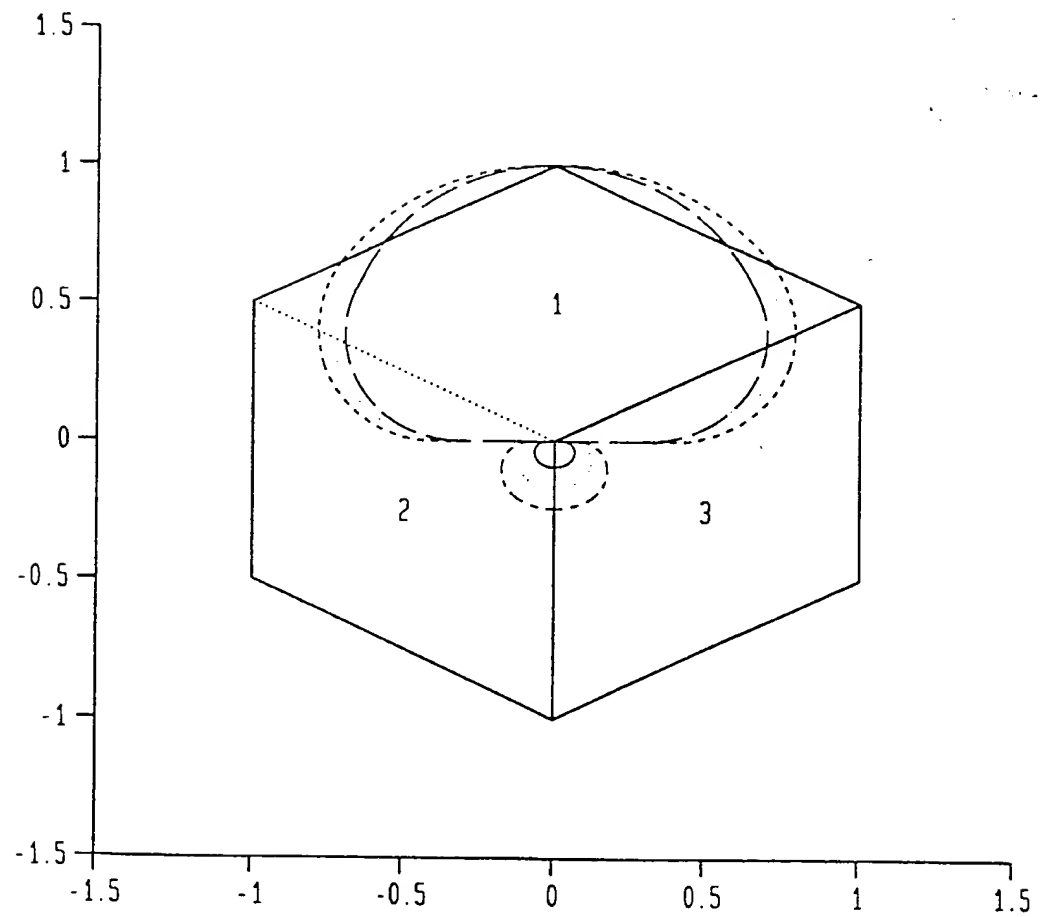


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FIG. 2A
(PRIOR ART)**FIG. 2B**
(PRIOR ART)**FIG. 2C**
(PRIOR ART)**FIG. 2D**
(PRIOR ART)

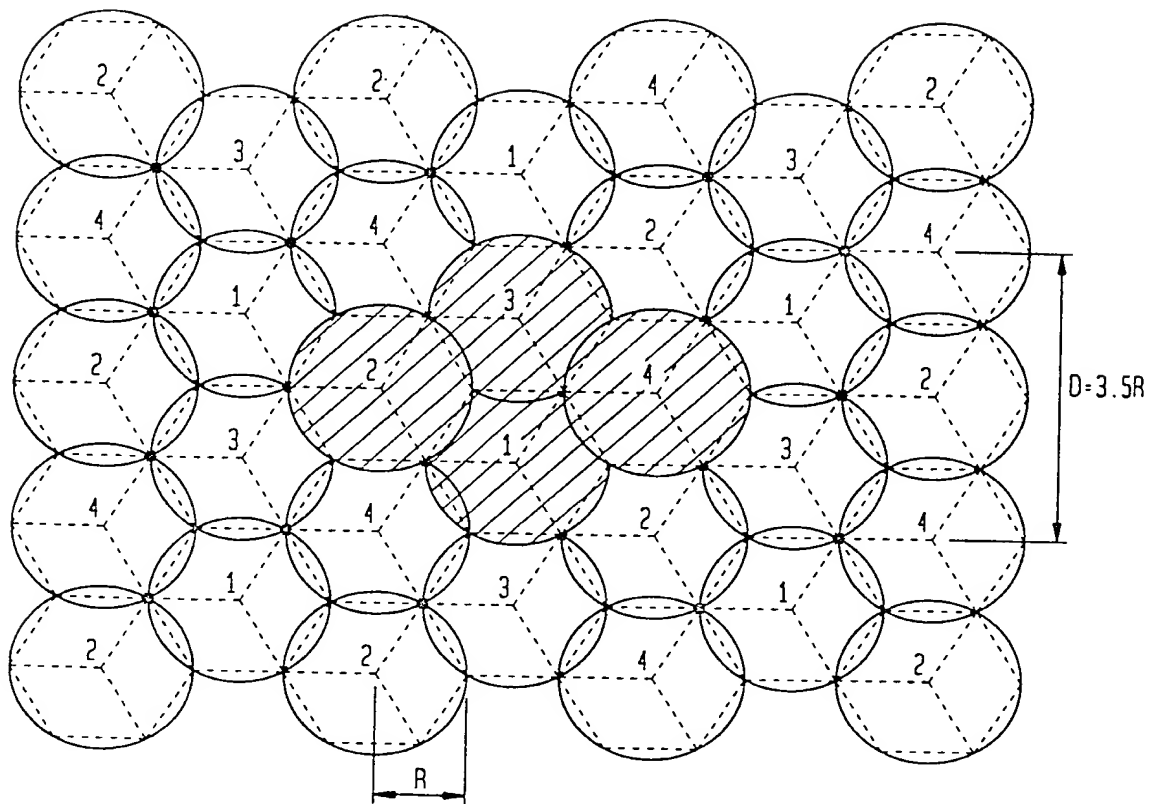
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FIG. 3
(PRIOR ART)



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FIG. 4
(PRIOR ART)



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FIG. 5
(PRIOR ART)

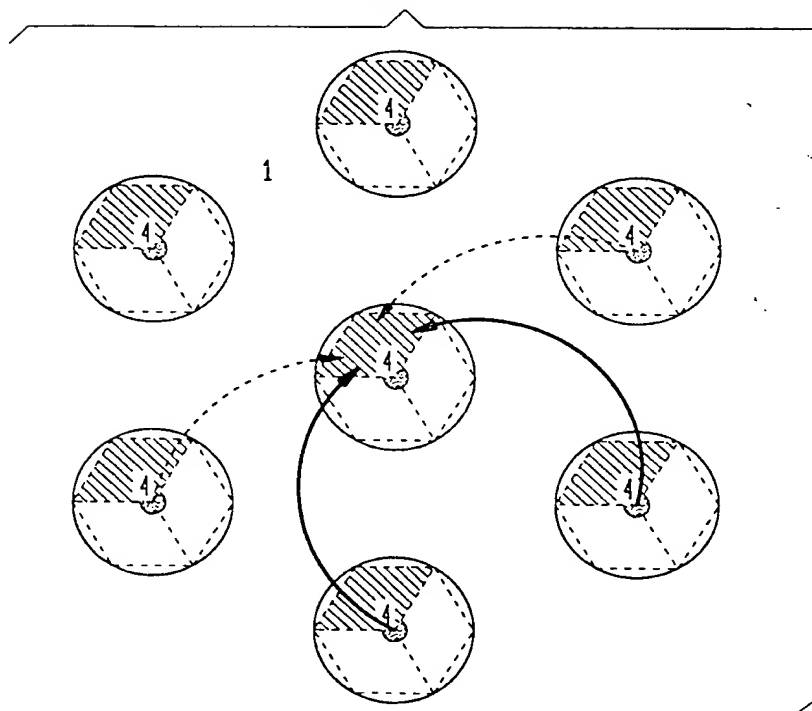


FIG. 6

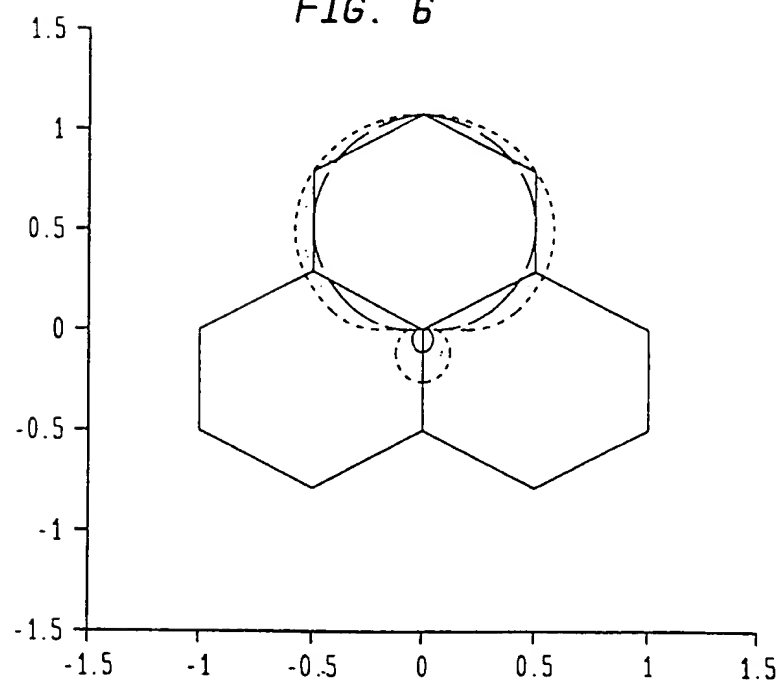
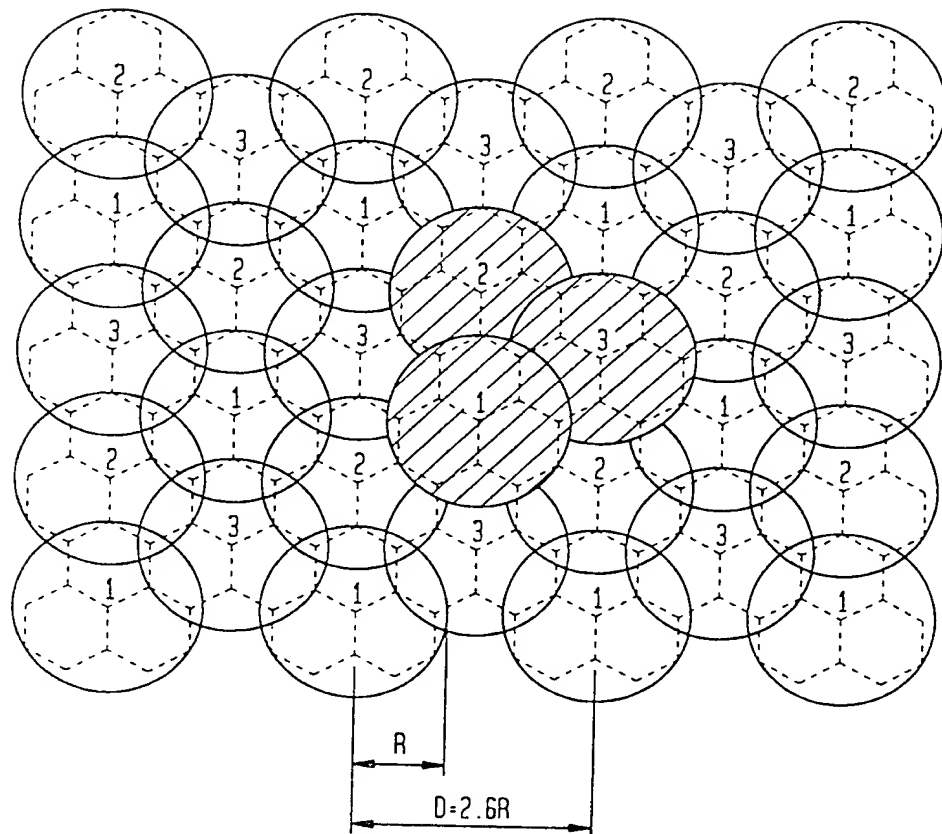
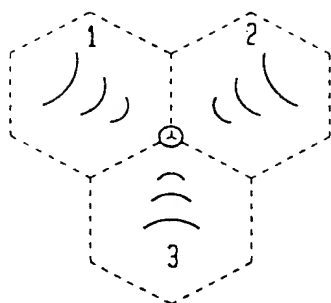


FIG. 7



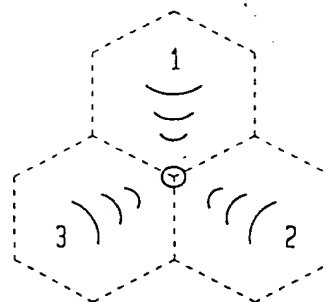
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FIG. 8A



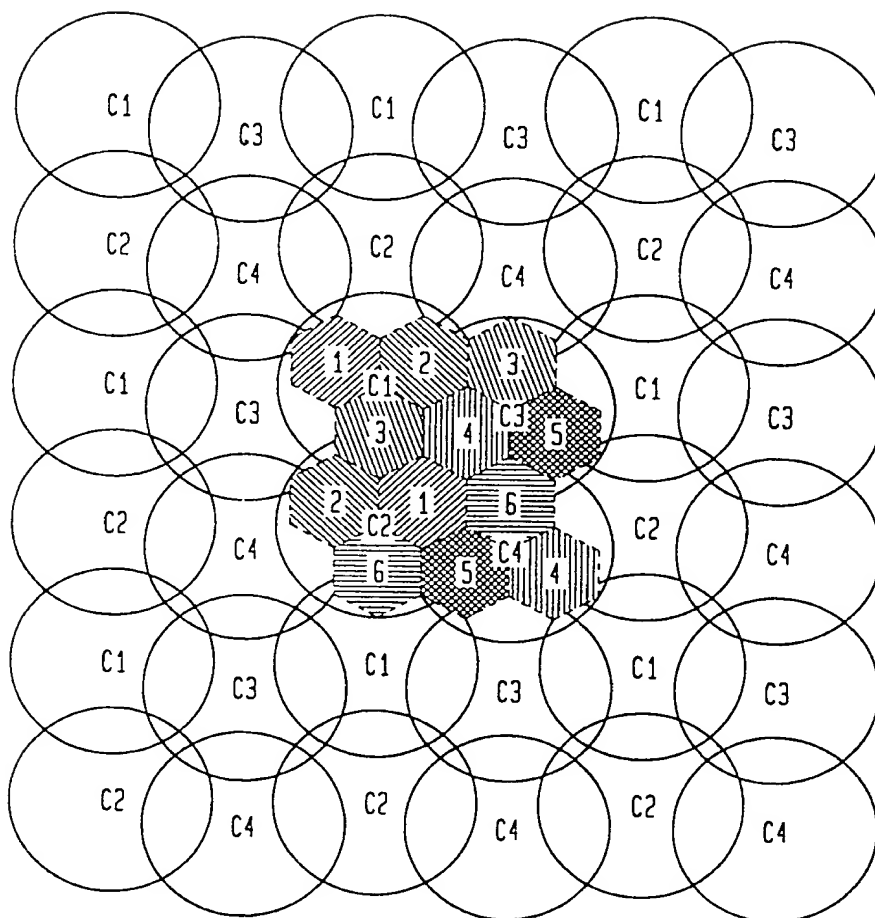
NBTC (TYPE-I)

FIG. 8B



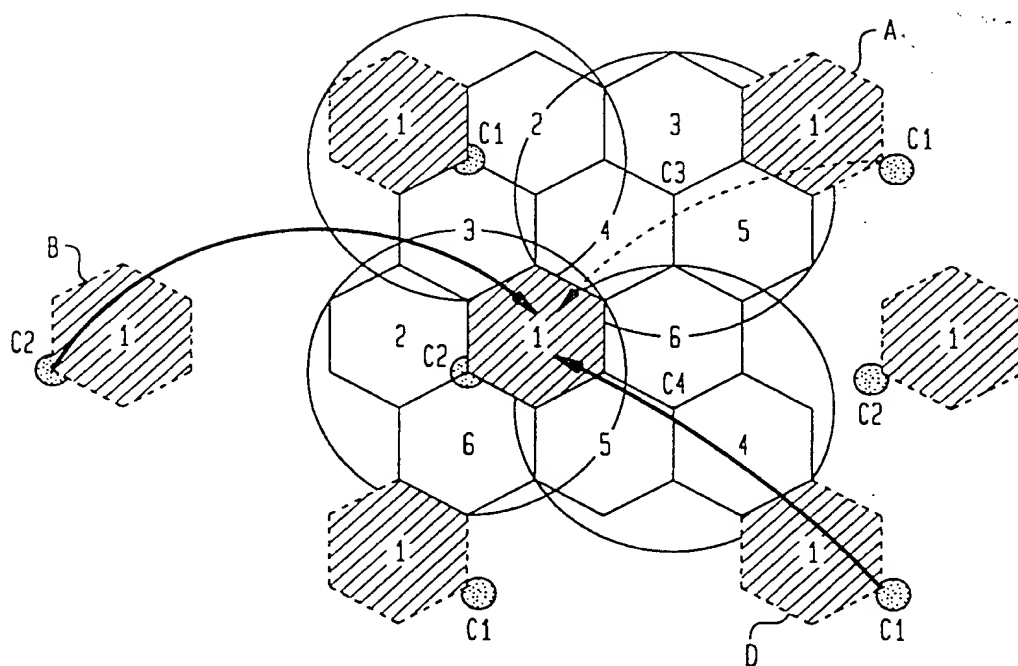
NBTC (TYPE-II)

FIG. 9



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FIG. 10



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 98/09835

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 H0407/36

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 H040

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 96 34505 A (IONICA INT LTD ;BRODIE IAIN RICHARD (GB)) 31 October 1996	1-5, 7-11, 13-15
Y	see abstract see page 5, line 1 - line 12 see page 11, line 12 - line 18 see figures 1,2	6,12
Y	---	
A	WO 91 03911 A (MOTOROLA INC) 21 March 1991	6,12 1,7, 13-15
	see abstract see page 4, line 29 - page 5, line 15 see figures 2,3	

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
 "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
 "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
 "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
 "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 October 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

03/11/1998

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Authorized officer

Masche, C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 98/09835

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>FARUQUE S: "N=4 TRI-CELLULAR PLAN WITH ALTERNATE CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT" PROCEEDINGS OF THE MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE (MILCOM), SAN DIEGO, NOV. 6 - 8, 1995, vol. 3, 6 November 1995, pages 1244-1247, XP000586721</p> <p>INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS</p> <p>see page 1244, left-hand column, line 15 - page 1245, left-hand column, line 30</p> <p>see figures 2.1-2.6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----</p>	<p>1,2,4,7, 8,10, 13-15</p>
A	<p>PAMP J: "MOBILTELEFON-FUNKNETZPLANUNG" FUNKSCHAU, vol. 65, no. 2, 8 January 1993, pages 58-61, XP000324702</p> <p>see page 59, column 2, line 17 - page 60, column 3, line 17</p> <p>see figures 1,3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----</p>	<p>1,6, 13-15</p>
A	<p>STRAT LE E ET AL: "SPECTRUM EFFICIENCY: GETTING THE BEST OUT OF GSM" MICROWAVE ENGINEERING EUROPE, August 1996, page 29/30, 32, 34, 36, 40/41 XP000672058</p> <p>see page 29, column 3, line 20 - page 30, column 1, line 22</p> <p>see page 32, column 1, line 39 - column 3, line 48</p> <p>see figures 2,3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----</p>	<p>1,7, 13-15</p>
A	<p>WO 96 04761 A (NORTHERN TELECOM LTD ;HUDSON JOHN EDWARD (GB)) 15 February 1996</p> <p>see abstract</p> <p>see page 6, line 30 - page 7, line 24</p> <p>see figure 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	<p>1,6,7, 12-15</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 98/09835

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WO 9103911 A	21-03-1991	US 5073971 A AU 627078 B AU 6401790 A CA 2037906 A CA 2037906 C EP 0441944 A FI 101582 B JP 7079507 B JP 4502694 T KR 9514805 B MX 167359 B NO 178649 B PT 95201 A,B	17-12-1991 13-08-1992 08-04-1991 06-03-1991 08-11-1994 21-08-1991 15-07-1998 23-08-1995 14-05-1992 14-12-1995 18-03-1993 22-01-1996 31-03-1992
WO 9604761 A	15-02-1996	GB 2292865 A,B ZA 9506400 A	06-03-1996 11-03-1996